

13.8 The Hydrosphere

All of Earth's water, fresh and salt, forms the hydrosphere.

About 70% of Earth is covered by water.

97.5% salt water (oceans)

2.5% fresh water

For fresh water:

87.3% ice caps (poles)

12.3% underground

0.4% atmosphere and surface water

For surface water/atmosphere

90% lakes

9% atmosphere

1% rivers.

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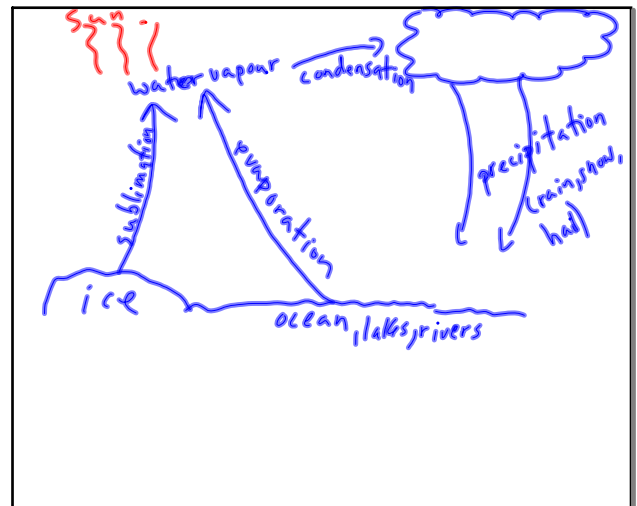
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The water cycle

Our weather depends greatly on water in its 3 states: solid (ice), liquid (water), gas (vapour).

Energy from the Sun causes water to evaporate and ice to sublime (solid → gas).

The water vapour rises and condenses into water droplets (clouds). This later falls back to Earth as precipitation.



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